Water Crisis in Southern States

3398. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that most of the Southern States in the country are facing severe water crisis resulting in non-availability of water for drinking and irrigation purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take for the solution of water crisis in Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Central Water Commission is monitoring the status of storage of 70 major reservoirs comprising 74% of the total live storage created in the country. Out of these, 26 reservoirs are situated in the Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, with total live storage capacity of 47.56% Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). During the current year, the overall live storage in these reservoirs as on 10.04.2003 was 4.52 BCM which is 65% of the last year's storage on the corresponding day and 44% of last 10 years' average storage in these reservoirs.

(c) In order to augment the availability of water for various uses including drinking and irrigation, and their efficient use, schemes are planned, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes (AIBP). Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rainwater harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which

envisages inter-linking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.

Comprehensive Study of Sri Ram Sagar Project in A. P.

3399. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to take up comprehensive study of effective use of surface and ground water in the areas irrigated by Sri Ram Sagar project in Andhra Pradesh through the Central Ground Water Board;

(b) if so, by when the study will start; and

(c) the probable time for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) The Central Ground Water Board has taken up studies on conjunctive use of surface and ground water in the Canal Command Areas of Sri Ram Sagar Project, Andhra Pradesh, covering an area of 440 Hectares.

(b) and (c) The studies were initiated during 2002-03 and are likely to be completed by 2005.

Scheme for Anti-sea Erosion Works in the Coastal Region of Karnataka

3400. DR.VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored scheme for Anti-sea Erosion works in the coastal region of Karnataka was submitted by the State Government of Karnataka in December, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total outlay proposed; and

(c) the present stage of consideration of the proposal and by when the approval and release of funds be expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Seven schemes for anti-sea erosion works with a total estimated cost of Rs. 11.12 crores were received by Central Water Commission (CWC) in December, 2001